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# EXCURSION PLANNED FOR THE CITY HISTORY CLUB OF NEW YORK BY FRANK BERGEN KELLEY

No. V—THE NINETEENTH CENTURY CITY: TENTH TO ONE  
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIFTH STREET

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## EXCURSION V—1912 EDITION

This **Excursion** was first outlined in 1905, revised in a special Supplement in 1907, and again in book form in the **Historical Guide to the City of New York** in 1909. Much credit for the work on Bloomingdale and Madison Square is due to Mr. Hopper Striker Mott; Mr. Frank Warren Crane aided in the correction of "The Upper East Side," and the works of Albert Ulmann, Thomas A. Janvier, R. R. Wilson, William Hemstreet and Professor Henry P. Johnston were of great service.

Few old landmarks remain in this busy and constantly changing part of the metropolis, but particular efforts seem to have been made in this central portion of Manhattan to commemorate the past in sculpture or by monuments and tablets, and here are found some of the greatest museums and depositories of historical records and prints.

## HISTORICAL GUIDE

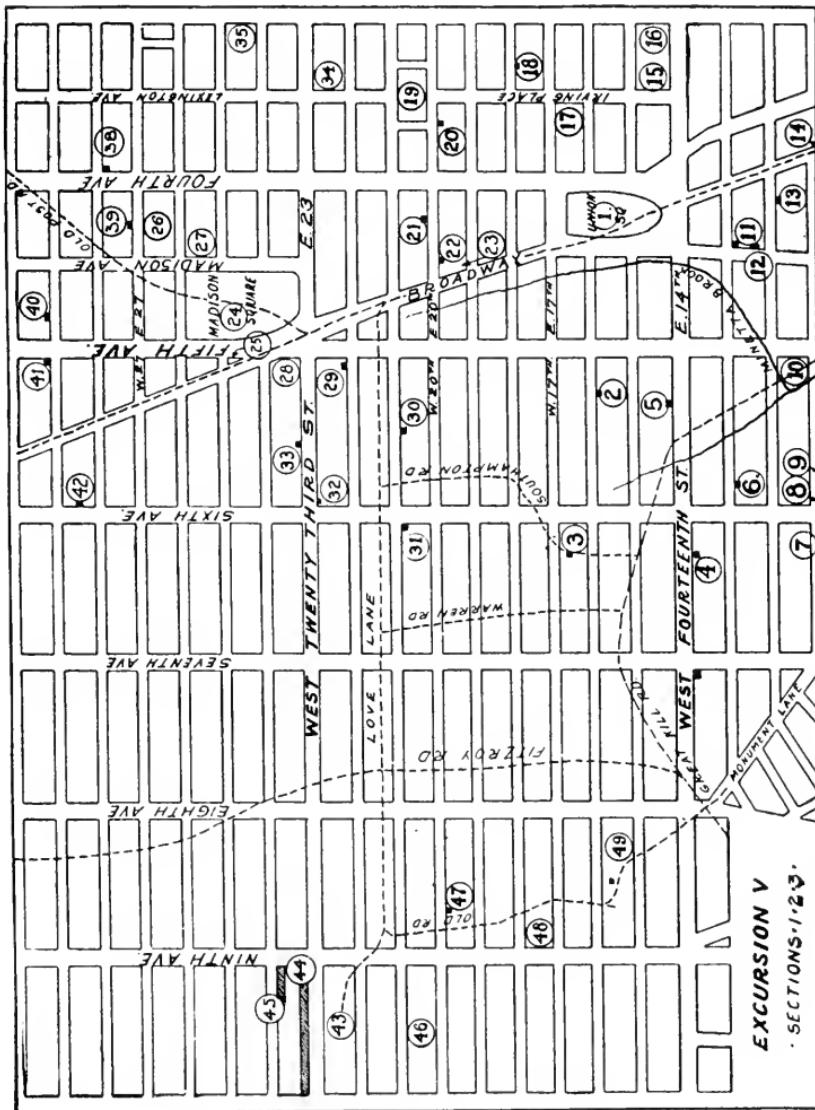


PLATE XXI. ROUTES 14, 15, 16.

C. K.

## THE NINETEENTH CENTURY CITY.

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N. B.—\* refers to Addenda, 1912, on pages 138, 139.

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### ROUTE 14.

#### SECTION I.—UNION SQUARE TO GRAMERCY PARK.

(For Sections I, II and III, figures refer to Plate XXI.)

General Viele's Map in Wilson's Memorial History, Vol. IV, and the Commissioners Map of 1807 are useful in showing early houses, lanes and roads.

*Take Subway to Fourteenth Street.*

I. UNION SQUARE, designated as Union Place by the Commissioners of the City Plan, who in 1807-11 laid out Manhattan on the "checker-board system." Because of the intersection of the Bowery and Broadway, this was left an open square, but not formally laid out until 1832, when Samuel B. Ruggles was instrumental in planning the park of three and one-half acres. Lower Broadway was made to bend at Tenth Street to avoid the demolition of the Brevoort homestead and it connected with the Road to Bloomingdale, which ran diagonally across the Square from Bowery, or New York Lane.

Hendrick Brevoort's farm was bounded as follows: the southwest corner began at the middle of Fifth Avenue, between Eighth and Ninth Streets, ran north along Minetta Water, which was the westerly boundary, to a point about fifty feet north of Twelfth Street; thence east in a straight line to the west side of Fourth Avenue in Fourteenth Street, thence south along the west side of Fourth Avenue to a point about seventy-five feet north of Tenth Street, and thence west in a straight line to the point of beginning. Because of the opposition of Brevoort, who wished to save a favorite tree, Eleventh Street was not cut through between Broadway and Fourth Avenue.

The Minto Estate, once owned by Lieutenant-Governor Elliott, then by Baron Poelniitz, and later part of the Randall Farm, lay south. The ground rents from this property to-day support the Sailors' Snug Harbor on Staten Island.

The Spangler Estate, bought from Elias Brevoort in 1788, adjoined the Brevoort Farm on the north and was bounded as follows: the west line was Minetta Water, the east line Fourth Avenue and a prolongation of Bloomingdale Road, the north line ran from a point now in Union Square at a point about equidistant between Fifteenth and Sixteenth Streets in a straight line to a point about fifty feet north of the north side of Fourteenth Street and two hundred feet east of the easterly side of Sixth Avenue, and the south line bordered on the Brevoort Farm.

The large fountain in the center of Union Square dates from 1842 when Croton water was introduced into the city. The small fountain facing Broadway at Sixteenth Street was donated to the city by D. Willis James and erected in 1881. It was designed by Adolf Donndorf of Stuttgart and founded in bronze in Brunswick, Germany.

The bronze equestrian statue of Washington, copied from Houdon, was erected by city merchants at the spot where Washington was received by the citizens on Evacuation Day, November 25, 1783, and was dedicated July 4, 1856. This is the oldest public statue in the city which stands in its original place, and was the work of Henry K. Brown.

Near the statue there was held in 1861 a great war meeting in response to Lincoln's call for troops. Facing it is the **statue of Lafayette**, modelled by Bartholdi and presented in 1876 to the city by French residents as a token of gratitude for American sympathy in the Franco-Prussian War.

At the southwest corner of the Square see the bronze **statue of Lincoln**, by H. K. Brown, erected by popular subscription under the auspices of the Union League Club about 1866.

*Go west on Sixteenth Street*

2. **Home of William Cullen Bryant**, 24 West Sixteenth Street. Pass the Church and College (opened in 1847) of St. Francis Xavier.

3. **Paisley Place** or Weavers' Row, a double row of rear wooden houses entered by alleys at 115-117 West Sixteenth Street and 112-114 West Seventeenth Street. They were built about 1822 to accommodate Scotch weavers from Paisley who fled to this part of the city to escape yellow fever.

*Go down Sixth Avenue and west on Fourteenth Street.*

4. **Cruger Mansion**, 126-130 West Fourteenth Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues, once the home of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In the Metropolitan Temple at Fourteenth Street and Seventh avenue are **Memorial windows** to ex-Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt.\*<sup>1</sup>

*Go east on Fourteenth Street.*

5. The **Van Beuren House**, 21 West Fourteenth Street (built about 1855), one of the last private residences on this block and the second homestead of the Spingler Estate. This family is distinct from that to which President Van Buren belonged.

*Go down Fifth Avenue and west on Thirteenth Street.*

At 36 West Thirteenth Street (Steeple Building) and 43-45 West Twelfth Street, see in the oblique walls of the buildings traces of the old *Union Road* which originally connected Skinner Road (the continuation of Christopher Street) with the Southampton Road at Fifteenth Street and Seventh Avenue (Section III, A). Note the lines of these roads and of Minetta Brook on Plate XXI.

6. **60 West Thirteenth Street** (occupied 1897-1905 by the De-Witt Clinton High School), famous as the "old Thirteenth Street School," once under the principalship of Dr. Hunter (founder of the Normal College) whose graduates have formed the Thomas Hunter Association.

*Go down to Sixth Avenue.*

7. **Milligan Place** (old Milligan's Lane), west side of Sixth Avenue, between Tenth and Eleventh Streets, once connected Amos (West Tenth) Street with the Union Road. Note the slant of the building on the north side marking the original direction of the Lane.

*Go west on Eleventh Street.*

8. The “**Grapevine**” (Sixth Avenue and West Eleventh Street) was once a popular roadhouse on the old Union Road.

9. The second “**Beth Haim**” (House of Rest), a Jewish Cemetery, was established here 1804-5 (the early cemetery being still visible at Oliver Street and New Bowery. (Excursion III:18.) It was used as a burial place for strangers, but became the regular cemetery of the congregation in 1882. In 1829, Eleventh Street east of Sixth Avenue was opened by the City Commissioners, encroaching largely on the cemetery, whereupon a third site was purchased in 1830 at the southwest corner of Sixth Avenue and Twenty-first Street (Section II:31).

At 33 West Eleventh Street, note the building in the rear (cistern and chimney), which was near the line of the Union Road.

*Go north on Fifth Avenue.*

10. The **Old First Presbyterian Church**, Fifth Avenue, between Eleventh and Twelfth Streets, successor to the early church on Wall Street founded in 1719. See **tablet** (Excursion VII:20).

*Go east on Thirteenth Street to University Place, then east on West Twelfth Street.*

11. **Tablet**, southeast corner of Thirteenth Street and University Place, erected in 1908 by the officers and veterans of the Ninth Regiment, National Guard, State of New York, organized in 1799, acting as the Eighty-third New York Volunteers in the Civil War. From their headquarters, site marked by the tablet, “they marched away 850 strong, May 27, 1861. They returned home June 11, 1864, with 17 officers and 78 enlisted men after having gone through 24 battles.”

12. **New York Society Library** at 109 University Place, the oldest public library in America, established in 1700 in the English City Hall by Governor Bellomont, incorporated in 1754 as the City Library and chartered by George III in 1772 as the New York Society Library. The present building was erected in 1856. See within many rare prints of old New York; complete files of local newspapers, all the well-known histories, guide books, directories, etc., of New York.

13. **Old Twelfth Street School**, once under the principalship of Lydia Wadleigh who did so much to promote free education for girls.

*Go down Broadway to*

14. **Grace Churchyard.** See the sun dial, doliola and marble seat. The doliola, made to hold grain, was found while digging for the foundation of St. Paul's on the Via Nationale in Rome, and was presented by the late Dr. Nevin of that church. Two like it remain in St. Paul's Church garden. Grace Church originally stood at Broadway and Rector Street. (Excursion VII:19). The present building was erected in 1845.

*Go east on Tenth Street to Fourth Avenue, north to Fourteenth and then east.*

15. The **Academy of Music**, corner of Irving Place, the first building erected in 1854, rebuilt 1868, the home of opera in New York until 1883.

16. **Tammany Hall**, fourth building of the Tammany Society, Columbian Order, established in 1786. See on the front "Tammany Society, 1789-1807" and the figure of St. Tammany, the Indian Chief. Within the building may be seen some valuable historical paintings and prints. The "Wigwam" on the top floor contains the emblems of the Society.

*Go north on Irving Place.*

17. **House of Washington Irving**, southwest corner of Seventeenth Street, opposite the new Washington Irving High School.\*2

*Go east on Eighteenth Street.*

18. **Bayard Taylor's Home**, "the Stuyvesant," 142 East Eighteenth Street, one of the oldest apartment houses in New York; built in 1800 on the French model by Rutherford Stuyvesant whose family still owns it.

*Go north on Irving Place to*

19. **Gramercy Park.** Innes says that the name was derived from "Krom merssche" or "Krom moerasje" (crooked little swamp), formed by the shape of Cedar Creek which flowed from Madison Square and emptied into the East River at Eighteenth Street. In 1780 *Gramercy Seat* was the 20-acre farm of James Duane (Mayor 1783-88), and later became the property of Samuel B. Ruggles, who in December, 1831, set apart to trustees 42 lots for the creation of Gramercy Park. According to the deed, they were to surround the plot with an iron railing with ornamental gates, and by January 1, 1834, to lay out the grounds and plant trees. The tenants occupying the 66 lots bounding it were to have the right of access thereto as a place of common resort and recreation, providing each contributed ten dollars per year for its maintenance. The work was completed in 1840. See **tablet** set in the sidewalk near the west gate.

20. The **Samuel J. Tilden House** (now the **National Arts Club**) is at 14-15 Gramercy Park South. It is noted for its sculptured front. See the medallion heads of Shakespeare, Milton, Dante, Goethe and Franklin.

*Go west on Twentieth Street, passing the*

21. **Home of the Cary Sisters** at 53 East Twentieth Street and  
22. The birthplace of **Theodore Roosevelt**, 28 East Twentieth Street.

23. **Horace Greeley** lived at 35 East Nineteenth Street.\*<sup>3</sup>

## MANHATTAN

### ROUTE 15.

#### SECTION II.—MADISON SQUARE AND VICINITY.

24. **MADISON SQUARE** (6.84 acres) was originally planned and used as a "Parade Ground" to extend from Twenty-third to Thirty-fourth Streets and from Third to Seventh Avenues. The territory it covered was bounded on the west by the Bloomingdale Road and was crossed by the Old Post Road. The double row of trees seen from the fountain, looking north to Madison Avenue, denotes the bed of the Old Post Road which was closed April 27, 1844, by resolution of the Common Council. (See Appendix—"The City Milestones and the Old Post Road.") To Mayor Harper (1844) must be given the credit for the improvement of the Square. The triangle south of the Post Road, a part of the Common Lands, belonged to the city; that part thereof to Twenty-sixth Street was purchased in 1845, largely from General Theodorus Bailey, the City Postmaster. Such part as the city owned was legally opened as a park on May 10, 1844. Proceedings to acquire title to that part not purchased of General Bailey were confirmed May 3, 1847, at a total cost of \$65,952. Fifth Avenue, from Twenty-third to Twenty-eighth Streets, was ordered filled in and regulated in March, 1845. The park was ordered lighted by gas in 1852 and was limited to its present dimensions by Chapter 177 of the Laws of 1837.

The Potter's Field was in Madison Square between 1794-7.

See the **statues** of Wm. H. Seward, by Rogers, 1876; Roseoe Conklin, by J. Q. A. Ward, 1893; Admiral Farragut, by St. Gaudens, erected in 1881 by the Farragut Memorial Association, and Chester A. Arthur, by Bissell, 1899. The small drinking fountain was given by Miss Catherine Wolfe and the large one by Mrs. O. E. P. Stokes.

25. The **Worth Monument** (of Quincy granite, 51 feet high) by James C. Batterson, erected in 1857 at the junction of Fifth Avenue, Broadway and Twenty-fifth Street by the corporation of the city, to honor Major-General Worth, who distinguished himself in the Mexican War. His body rests beneath the monument. See the equestrian figure of Worth in high relief on the south face of the monument.

The *United States Arsenal* stood near the site of the Worth Monument from 1808 to 1824. The deed of the City authorities to the general government of land for the site of the arsenal, or magazine (as the old maps have it), was dated November 17, 1807. The possibility of the War of 1812 caused its construction as a defensive measure. The United States conveyed the building and its rights to the site to the Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents, July 21, 1824, for \$6,000. Two wings were added by the Society, one for each sex and the remodeled edifice opened January 1, 1825. After its destruction by fire in 1839, a new building was erected at Bellevue in October of the following year, and the inmates, on its abandonment in 1854, were removed to Randall's Island.

*Go east through the Square to*

26. **Madison Square Garden**, opened in 1800, on the site of the old Harlem R. R. Station and later the site of a Hippodrome opened by Barnum in 1873. It was first called by its present name on May 31, 1879.

27. The **Appellate Court House**, Twenty-fifth Street and Madison Avenue, James Brown Lord, architect. The symbolic mural paintings in the main entrance and the Court Room are by well-known American artists and of special interest.

*Cross Madison Square to Twenty-Third Street and Fifth Avenue.*

28. Site of the *Fifth Avenue Hotel*. The farm on which this famous hostelry stood belonged to John Horn, whose homestead was in the center of Fifth Avenue, just south of Twenty-third Street. This "House of John Horn" was designated in the Law of 1703 as the starting point of the Bloomingdale Road. It was occupied by Christopher Mildeberger (who married Horn's daughter) when Fifth Avenue was opened in 1837. On petition, the Common Council granted that it should remain on its site until November, 1839. After its removal to the site of the Fifth Avenue Hotel in that year, it was a tavern kept by Thompson, known as the "Madison Cottage." Here it stood until 1853 (14 years) when it was torn down to make way for Franconi's Hippodrome which was opened in 1853 and occupied the entire block front. The hotel, which was razed in 1908, succeeded this building. In this hotel was erected in 1859 the first passenger elevator.

*Go down Fifth Avenue to West Twenty-first Street, passing*

29. **Tablet** at 5 West Twenty-second Street, marking the site of the home of S. F. B. Morse.\*<sup>4</sup>

The *Buckhorn Tavern* was on the southeast corner of Broadway and Twenty-second Street.

The *Union House* stood at the corner of Love Lane (Twenty-first Street) and Bloomingdale Road. On its second floor the Civil District Court was held for many years. This building was the residence of Jacob, son of John Horn, and was built by him.

*Go west on Twenty-first Street, the line of Abingdon Road.*

30. **The Home of Chester A. Arthur**, 34 West Twenty-first Street, at the time of his accession to the presidency.

31. **Beth Haim**, the third Jewish Cemetery, best seen from the staircase at the rear of O'Neill's store, at the corner of Twenty-first Street and Sixth Avenue. A cemetery was established here in 1830 (Section I:9).

*Go north on Sixth Avenue to Twenty-third Street.*

32. **Bust** and **tablet** of Edwin Booth at 70 West Twenty-third Street, marking the site of Booth's Theatre.

33. **Schermerhorn Mansion**, 40 West Twenty-third Street, the last private residence on the block. When erected, the population of New York was 700,000; stages ran on Broadway; horse cars were in common use; Harlem trains ran to White and Center Streets and Hudson River trains to Varick and Beach Streets (*demolished 1911*).

*Take Twenty-third Street Cross Town car east, passing*

34. *College of the City of New York*, established at the corner of Twenty-third Street and Lexington Avenue in 1848-9. It was then known as the Free Academy, but in 1866 received its charter as a college. The new buildings on West One-hundred and Thirty-eighth Street were formally opened in 1908.

35. Site of *Bull's Head Tavern*, northwest corner of Third Avenue and Twenty-fourth Street, the third of the name (See Excursion I: 19 and III: 16); built about 1826 by Thomas Swift and owned for years by "Uncle Dan'l" Drew of steamboat fame. It was the headquarters of the drovers and butchers of New York until 1848 when the cattle market was moved to Forty-second Street. The region between Twenty-third and Twenty-seventh Streets, Second and Fourth Avenues was known as the *Bull's Head Village* and was part of the old *Rose Hill Farm*.

36. **Gate** and **wall** of the old House of Refuge at the entrance to a storage yard on the north side of Twenty-third Street, between First Avenue and Avenue A, to which site the institution was removed in 1839.

*Go north on Avenue A and through the grounds of the Department of Charities to Twenty-sixth Street.*

37. **Bellevue Hospital**, on what was the Belle Vue Farm. The City hospital was moved here in 1810 from the neighborhood of City Hall Park, together with the penitentiary and almshouse, the last two being later removed to Blackwell's Island. The first ambulance service in the world was inaugurated in 1860 by this hospital. See on the portico at the entrance to the main building a bit of peculiarly wrought **iron railing**, beneath which is a tablet stating that this formed part of the balcony of Federal Hall where Washington delivered his first Inaugural Address. Another portion of the railing is in the New York Historical Society Building. (Excursion VII:21). The main or **gray stone building** was the original Bellevue Hospital, the corner stone of which was laid in 1812.

*Walk west on Twenty-seventh Street*

38. The *Peter Cooper House*, moved in 1820 from the site of the Bible House to Twenty-eighth Street and Fourth Avenue, remained here until 1909.

39. The **Church du St. Esprit** (45 East Twenty-seventh Street), the successor to the original Huguenot Church, built in 1688 in Petticoat Lane. (Excursion VII:13 and I:28). See **tablet** in the vestibule, erected in 1902 by the Huguenot Society of America.

*Go north on Fifth Avenue to Twenty-ninth Street.*

40. **Church of the Transfiguration** (5 East Twenty-ninth Street), often called "The Little Church Around the Corner," from the remark of the curate of a near by church who, on being asked to officiate at the funeral of Holland, the actor, refused, adding that "perhaps the rector of the little church around the corner might be willing to serve." The church was opened in 1856. From it have been buried Wallack, Booth and Boucicault. See the **Lich Gate** and **memorial window** to Edwin Booth.

41. **Marble Collegiate Reformed Church**, Twenty-ninth Street and Fifth Avenue, dedicated in 1854. See **tablet** commemorating its succession to the "Church in the Fort" and, in the yard, the **bell** which originally hung in the North Church. (Section IV: 5 and Excursion I:37).

*Go west on Twenty-ninth Street to Sixth Avenue and south to*

42. **Mouquin's Restaurant**, located on the old Varian Farm, the homestead of which family stood on the west side of Bloomingdale Road, near the corner of Twenty-sixth Street (just north of it). In the homestead were born, 1793, Isaac Leggett Varian, Mayor 1839-40, and his brother William. The latter inherited the portion of the farm on which the building on Sixth Avenue is located, and he built and lived in the house. It was known for years as the "Knickerbocker Cottage," the Varians being a Knickerbocker family.\*5

## MANHATTAN

### ROUTE 16.

#### SECTION III.—LOVE LANE AND CHELSEA VILLAGE.

Fourteenth to Twenty-fourth Streets; Sixth to Tenth Avenues.

#### A. LOVE LANE AND TRACES OF THE OLD ROADS.

The *Abingdon Road* (named for the Earl of Abingdon, son-in-law of Sir Peter Warren), or "Love Lane" originally followed the line of West Twenty-first Street from the Bloomingdale Road to a point east of Eighth Avenue where it turned slightly northwest to Chelsea (traces at 318 and 342-346 West Twenty-first Street and the southwest corner of Eighth Avenue and Twenty-first Street). It was met just east of Sixth Avenue by the *Southampton Road* (traces at Paisley Place, Section I:3); east of Seventh Avenue by the *Warren Road* (traces at 148 West Nineteenth Street and 154 West Seventeenth Street); east of Eighth Avenue it crossed the *Fitzroy Road* (running from Fifteenth to Forty-second Streets; traces remaining at 254 West Twentieth Street, 256 West Eighteenth Street and 246-250-252 West Seventeenth Street); and east of Ninth Avenue by a *Fourth road* (traces at 339 West Twenty-first Street, 346 and 368-370 West Eighteenth Street, 352-356 West Seventeenth Street, 352-354 West Sixteenth Street, 367 West Fifteenth Street and 112 Ninth Avenue).

These four roads connected Love Lane with the *Great Kill Road* which followed the line of Gansevoort Street, extended to Sixteenth Street east of Seventh Avenue (traces in oblique wall of St. Joseph's Home, northwest corner of Fifteenth Street and Seventh Avenue).

Quaint houses, some with oriel windows and newel posts, many of them reached through alleyways, survive on Twentieth Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues, on Eighteenth Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues and Sixteenth and Seventeenth Streets between Seventh and Eighth Avenues; also along Seventh and Eighth Avenues between Fifteenth and Twenty-third Streets.

#### B. CHELSEA.

CHELSEA is the name applied to that part of the city between Eighth Avenue, the Hudson, Nineteenth and Twenty-fourth Streets, and was so called for the homestead of Captain Clarke, a veteran of the French and Indian Wars. His house, (43 in map) named for the Soldiers' Home near London, was built in 1750, about 200 feet west of the present Ninth Avenue between Twenty-second and Twenty-third Streets, the grounds running down to the river which then came nearly to Tenth Avenue. It was rebuilt by "Mistress Molly Clarke," who lived here until 1802. Her daughter married Bishop Moore, whose son, Clement C. Moore, lived here until 1850. Here, in 1822, he wrote the familiar poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas."

"Twas the night before Christmas," etc.

Through his agency streets were opened through this property in 1823. The old house was torn down in 1852-3 when the bluffs along the river shore were leveled and the shore line extended west.

The whole shore line is being improved, entire blocks of buildings having been demolished to make way for modern warehouses and the new streets which are being constructed along the river front.

**Tablet** on Red Star Dock at Twenty-second Street and Twelfth Avenue marks the "Chelsea Improvement," a great system of new docks not yet completed and meant to accommodate the largest merchant vessels afloat.

*Take Ninth Avenue Elevated R. R. to Twenty-third Street or Twenty-third Street car to Ninth Avenue.*

43. Site of *Chelsea*, original homestead of Captain Clarke and Clement C. Moore (see above).

44. **London Terrace**, the familiar row of tall pilastered houses with deep front yards on Twenty-third Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues, erected in 1845 by Wm. Torrey when this was a fashionable residence quarter.

At 436 West Twenty-second Street is the old mansion once the home of Edwin Forrest and little altered since his time.

45. **Chelsea Cottages**, a row of small houses with little front yards on West Twenty-fourth Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues, built 1845.

*Go down Ninth Avenue to*

46. **Chelsea Square**, the block between Twentieth and Twenty-first Streets and Ninth and Tenth Avenues, on which are the buildings of the **General Theological Seminary**. The land was given by C. C. Moore and the West Building (still standing) was erected in 1835. The Square with its green lawns, quadrangles and ivy covered buildings, the library, chapel and refectory, is well worth a visit.

47. **St. Peter's Church**, on Twentieth Street, east of Ninth Avenue, was built in 1836-8 on land given by C. C. Moore. See within tablets to Moore and Dr. Hugh Smith. The rectory, just west, was the original St. Peter's Chapel.

48. **114 Ninth Avenue**, between Seventeenth and Eighteenth Streets, an old house with outside stairs and gambrel window reached through a rear alley which originally faced a road used as a short cut from Greenwich Village to Chelsea. See also the old house at 112 Ninth Avenue.

49. **Old House** at 346 West Sixteenth Street, with gambrel roof and outside stairs.

Many other old houses may be seen between Ninth and Seventh Avenues along Twentieth to Fifteenth Streets (see A above).

## MANHATTAN

### ROUTE 17.

#### SECTION IV.—MURRAY HILL TO CENTRAL PARK.

(Figures refer to Plate XXII.)

*Take Subway or Madison Avenue car to Thirty-third Street; go up the steps to Thirty-fourth Street.*

MURRAY HILL is the height between Thirty-fourth and Forty-second Streets, Third Avenue and Broadway, and was named for Robert Murray, a Tory whose wife, Mary Lindley, by a clever stratagem delayed Howe (September 15, 1776) in his pursuit of Washington. The cornfield where Washington tried to rally the American troops was on the Murray farm, somewhere between the sites of the Grand Central Station and Bryant Park. The Murray estate was called Ingleberg, and extended between Thirty-third and Thirty-seventh Streets, from the Boston to the Bloomingdale Road.

The PARK AVENUE TUNNEL was built under Murray Hill in 1837 to accommodate the first horsecar line in the world, running from Harlem to Chambers Street. Later it was used by the Harlem Railroad, the terminal being at White and Centre Streets.

*Go up Park Avenue to*

1. **Tablet**, erected by the Knickerbocker Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, to mark the site of the Murray House, on a boulder in a park space at Thirty-seventh Street and Park Avenue, where the house stood until 1834.

*Go west on Thirty-seventh Street to*

2. **Brick Presbyterian Church**, at the corner of Fifth Avenue, organized in 1767, the original building in Park Row (Excursion I: 14). See in the lecture room (open all day) interesting collection of historical portraits and relics of the old church.

*Go up Fifth Avenue to Fortieth Street and then west, passing*

3. **New York Public Library**, erected 1902-10 on the Astor-Lenoxt-Tilden foundation.

4. **Bryant Park** (so called in 1884, but originally known as Reservoir Square) was bought by the city in 1822 and used as a Potter's Field until, in 1842, it became the site of the first distributing reservoir of the Croton Aqueduct, now torn down to make way for the Library. See portions of the reservoir walls. In the western part of the Park stood the Crystal Palace, where the first World's Fair in America was held in 1853. In 1858 an ovation was given here to Cyrus W. Field, on the completion of the Atlantic Cable and soon after the building was destroyed by fire.

*Go through the Park to Forty-second Street, passing*

The colossal **bust of Washington Irving** (unveiled 1866) opposite the Fortieth Street entrance and the **statue of Dr. J. Marion Sims**, on the north side of the Park.<sup>26</sup>

*Go north on Fifth Avenue.*

## HISTORICAL GUIDE

C. K.

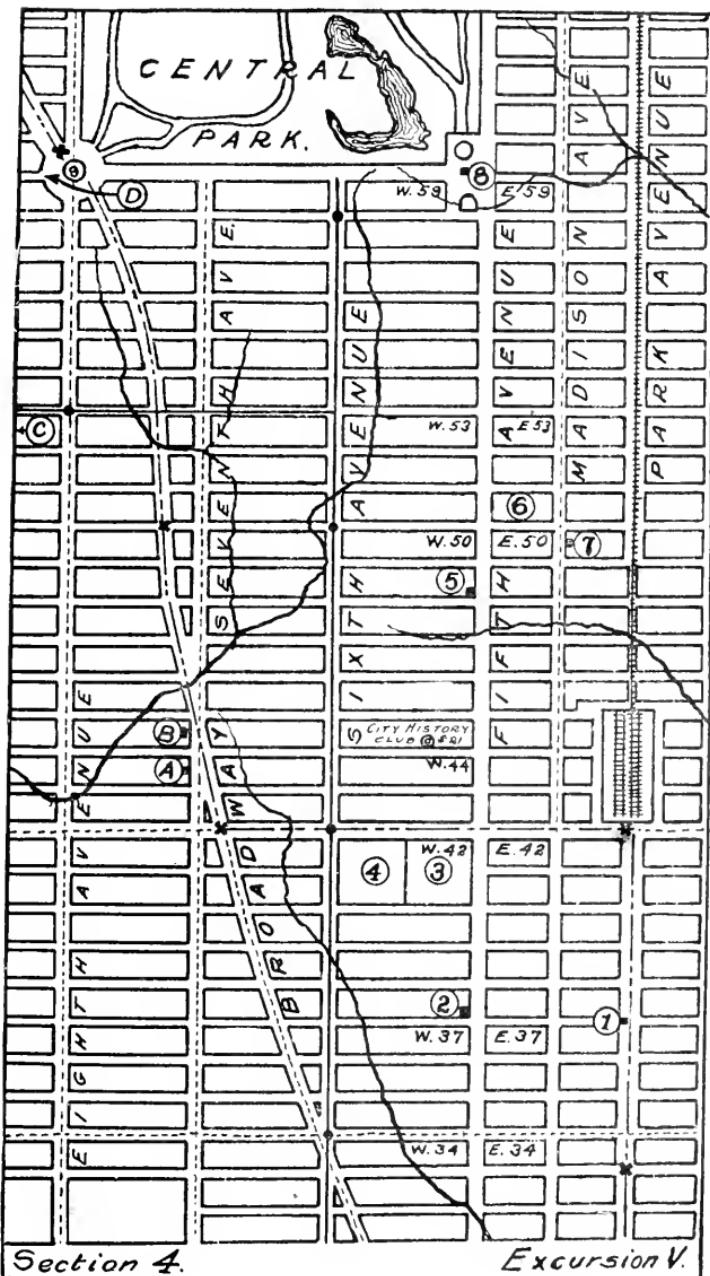


PLATE XXII. ROUTE 17.

5. The **Collegiate Dutch Reformed Church**, at Forty-eighth Street. Note the **tablet** to commemorate its connection with the "Church in the Fort." Within may be seen a **tablet** erected by the Daughters of the Revolution, State of New York, to honor the soldiers and sailors of the Revolution. In the lecture room is an interesting collection of historical pictures and books, including the portraits in oil of its ministers since 1699. The **bell** which hangs in the steeple was cast in Amsterdam in 1728. It was bequeathed by Abraham De Peyster, whilom mayor of the city, a son of Johannes, the founder of the family in America, to the Middle Dutch Church on Nassau Street, between Cedar and Liberty Streets. (Excursion I:27). When the edifice was used as a City Post Office, the bell was removed to the church at Ninth Street near Broadway, thence to the church on Lafayette Place and later to its present location.

6. **St. Patrick's Cathedral**, projected by Archbishop Hughes in 1850 and costing \$2,500,000. See within the vestibule at the south end a framed account of the title of the property, acquired by the trustees of St. Patrick's in 1852 for \$59,500.

*Go east on Fiftieth Street.*

7. **Tablet** on the east side of Madison Avenue, between Forty-ninth and Fiftieth Streets, marking the site of Columbia College which was moved here from College Place in 1857 (Excursion I, 21). The *Elgin Botanical Garden*, founded in 1801 by Dr. Hosack, Professor of Botany in Columbia, occupied the blocks between Forty-seventh and Fifty-first Streets and west nearly to Sixth Avenue, on land given Columbia by the State, to make good the claims of the college to a New Hampshire township. Two English yews once in the garden were transplanted to the new site at Morningside Heights.

*Return to Fifth Avenue and take electric bus to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, passing the*

8. **Sherman Statue** at the Plaza, designed by St. Gaudens and erected in 1904. Three blocks west on Fifty-ninth Street is the

9. **Columbus Column** at the Circle, presented to the city by Italian citizens at the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America.

**Central Park** was planned in 1851 and laid out by "the Commissioners of Central Park" in 1859, Frederick Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux executing the plans. The Park contains many statues of famous men.

**Statues** in and near Central Park (see Appendix B, p. 377, for exact locations, sculptor, etc.): West Drive—Hamilton, Mazzini, Webster, Seventh Regiment soldier; West Eighty-first Street entrance—Bolivar; near East Seventy-second Street entrance—the Pilgrim, Morse and R. M. Hunt; the Mall—Columbus; another of Columbus is at McGown's Pass Tavern.

**Maine Monument**, near the Circle, erected 1911-12, in commemoration of the loss of this battleship in Havana Harbor, in 1898.

In the **Hotel Netherland**, Fifth Avenue and Fifty-ninth Street, are the paintings, "The Purchase of Manhattan" and "Stuyvesant Receiving the English Terms of Surrender."

The **Board of Education Building**, Fifty-ninth Street and Park Avenue, contains portraits of De Witt Clinton and former members of the Board of Education.

The **Volunteer Firemen's Association**, 220 East Fifty-ninth Street, has a collection of old fire apparatus and pictures, open to the public.

The **Arsenal**, *in the Park*, near East Sixty-fourth Street, was erected by the State in 1848, and used as an arsenal until 1856, and again during the Civil War, when troops were quartered and drilled here. It became city property in 1856, and is now used by the Park Department.

In the **Metropolitan Museum of Art** (near Eighty-first Street), may be seen a fine collection of historical relics.

**Cleopatra's Needle**, near by, was presented in 1877 by the Khedive of Egypt, the expense of its transportation from Alexandria to New York being paid by William H. Vanderbilt.

In the **American Museum of Natural History** at Seventy-seventh Street and Central Park west, is a large collection of Indian relics excavated at Inwood, the Bronx, Long and Staten islands.

N. B. For historic points in the northern part of Central Park see *Excursion IV, Section I.*

For a complete account of Central Park see "Central Park in the City of New York," by E. H. Hall, in the 1911 Report of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society.

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The **New York Genealogical and Biographical Society**, 226 West Fifty-eighth Street, has a large collection of books and records (see p. 399).

**Tablet** in the West Side Branch, Y. M. C. A., 318 West Fifty-seventh Street, commemorating Washington at Valley Forge.

**New York Historical Society**, Central Park West, between Seventy-sixth and Seventy-seventh streets, has a fine collection of local historical relics, prints, etc., in addition to a large number of books, manuscripts, paintings and ancient relics (see p. 397).

## MANHATTAN

### ROUTE 18.

#### SECTION V.—BLOOMINGDALE.

(Figures refer to Plate XXIII and letters to Plate XXII.)

Sometime after the settlement of the Island of Manhattan, the middle west section received the name *Bloemendaal* (vale of flowers) from the Dutch town of that name. In early times the only access to the region was by water and by a few farm roads. Later it was bisected by the *Road to Bloomingdale* which ran its length through the *Bloomingdale District*, the name given it by the Law of 1703 under which the road was opened from Twenty-third Street and Broadway to One-hundred and Fifteenth Street and the present Riverside Drive. This road in a large measure followed the line of present Broadway. In 1795 it was extended to One-hundred and Forty-seventh Street, where it was merged in the Kingsbridge Road. In the territory which it traversed were a number of hamlets, one being at the *Great Kill*, the longest and deepest stream which indented the west shore of the island, with an outlet at Forty-second Street. The settlement at this spot extended into the fifties, *Harsenville* was located in the seventies, *Striker's Bay* in the nineties and *Bloomingdale Village* centered at One Hundredth Street. Each of these was a distinct locality and up to the opening of the Civil War had yet a semblance of village life. In Dutch times, the entire territory from Fourteenth Street to Claremont was known as Bloomingdale,—Greenwich and Chelsea being names of later English derivation. It was a favorite suburban section. Some few old mansions survive, but none of Revolutionary date.

*Take Subway to Times (Longacre) Square.\*7*

In 1872 LONGACRE SQUARE became the New York center of the carriage industry begun by Brewster and others and one of the trade journals likened it to London's Longacre Street in which the carriage trade was centred. The square having, at the time, no name the city authorities gave it that of Longacre.

A. **Tablet** over doorway at 1493-1505 Broadway, between Forty-third and Forty-fourth Streets, erected in 1893 by the Sons of the Revolution to commemorate the meeting of Washington and Putnam on September 15, 1776.

B. In the basement of the Hotel Astor may be seen a valuable collection of **pictures** of old New York. In the barroom is a painting showing the house of Medee Eden, an Englishman who owned the neighboring property originally, and died of yellow fever in one of the early epidemics.

*Take Forty-second Street-Tenth Avenue cars to Fifty-third Street.*

C. **DeWitt Clinton Park**, between Fifty-second and Fifty-fourth Streets, Eleventh and Twelfth Avenues; note the playgrounds, pergola, children's farm gardens and the recreation pier (foot of Fiftieth Street). The site was part of a farm which had remained in the Hopper family for 200 years.

In the center of Fifty-third Street, as laid out, stood the mansion of General Garrit Hopper Striker (Section VI:4) which was built in 1752 and was one of the oldest landmarks in the city when torn down in 1896. The Mott Homestead stood at Fifty-fourth Street on the river bank from 1706 until demolished in 1897. Both these residences, as well as Striker's and Mott's Lanes, were obliterated by the laying out of the Park.

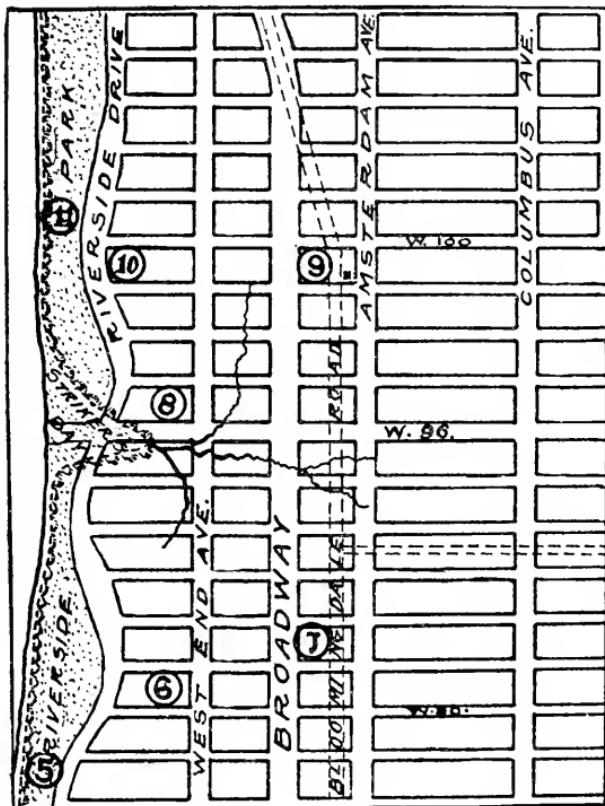


PLATE XXIII. ROUTE 18.

C. K.

D. In the DeWitt Clinton High School at Fifty-ninth Street and Tenth Avenue are two large mural paintings illustrating scenes in connection with the completion of the Erie Canal.

*Take Tenth Avenue car to Eighty-ninth Street; pass en route the site of*

1. *The Somerindyke House*, northwest corner of Seventy-fifth Street and Bloomingdale Road (Broadway). Here Louis Philippe lived and taught school during his exile. It was occupied by Hessians during the Revolution and razed in 1868.

2. *The Collegiate School* at 241-243 West Seventy-seventh Street, a direct descendant of the first Dutch school (1633) on Stone Street (Excursion VII:12; see H. W. Dunshee's history of the school).

3. *Van den Heuvel Mansion*, torn down 1905, in the block between Broadway and West End Avenue, Seventy-eighth and Seventy-ninth Streets. It was built about 1792 by Cornelius Van den Heuvel, the Governor of Demarara, and after 1839 was used as a tavern and known as Burnham's Mansion House. Burnham's original tavern, a favorite resort for driving parties, was at Seventieth Street and the Road.

4. *Poe Cottage*, Eighty-fourth Street, on the east side of Bloomingdale Road. Here Poe and his wife Virginia boarded with a family named Brennan during the summers of 1843 and 1844. During this time he wrote "The Raven" which first appeared in print in the New York Mirror in January, 1845.

*Walk west on Eighty-ninth Street to*

5. **The Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument**, erected in 1900-2 by the city to honor the heroes of the Civil War. Note view of Palisades, Ft. Washington Point, etc.

*Go north on Riverside Drive.*

6. The site of *Oak Villa*, between Ninetieth and Ninety-first Streets, west of West End Avenue, the country seat of Brockholst Livingston, grandson of Philip, second Lord of the Manor in Columbia County, New York. He was a Colonel of the Revolutionary Army, Judge of the Supreme Court and Associate Justice on the Federal Supreme Bench. He died in 1833 and was buried in the family vault in the yard of the Wall Street Presbyterian Church. The massive oaks standing in the Park at Ninety-first Street were on the Livingston property and gave the name "Oak Villa."

7. The site of the *Apthorp Mansion*, built in 1764 by Charles Ward Apthorp, a member of His Majesty's Council, between Ninety-first and Ninety-second Streets, just west of Columbus Avenue. It was the headquarters of Generals Howe, Clinton, Carleton and Cornwallis at successive stages of the British occupation. A rich English merchant, William Jauncey, (after whom Jauncey Court in Wall Street was named), bought the property in 1799 and the Cross Road to Harlem, afterward *Apthorp Lane*, leading to the house was known by his name for many years, and is so carried to this day on old maps.

8. Site of the *Striker's Bay Mansion*, at Ninety-sixth Street, on hill east of viaduct. An old elm on the property inspired George W. Morris in 1837 to write "Woodman, spare that tree." As a result, the tree was spared and in 1862 Morris testified that it was still standing. The mansion occupied the west line of the British outposts during the Battle of Harlem Heights.

Other well-known families who had permanent residences or country seats in Bloomingdale were the Bayards, Beekmans, Bownes, Leggetts, Danas, Havemeyers, Howlands, Lawrences, Schuylers, van Nordens, Rikers, de Peysters, De Lanceys, McVickars, Strikers, Hoppers, Posts, Schieffelins, Meiers, Whittlelocks, Weymans, Webbers, Cozines, Dyckmans, Harsens, Cuttings, Rogers, Wilkes, Wells, Clendinings, Jumcins and Motts.

9. **St. Michael's Episcopal Church** at Ninety-ninth Street and Amsterdam Avenue stands on the site of the old wooden church, erected in 1806. ("Annals of the Parish," by Dr. John P. Peters).

10. **The Furniss House**, on Riverside Drive, between Ninety-ninth and One Hundredth Streets, was erected by William P. Furniss in 1843. Just north of it was the

11. *Humphrey Jones House*, on the river bluff, between One Hundred and First and One Hundred and Second Streets. (See Johnston's "History of the Battle of Harlem Heights" and Mott's "The New York of Yesterday"). In 1798 Robert T. Kemble bought the property and in 1811 it was acquired by William Rogers and was known for years as the "Ann Rogers House." It was struck by lightning and burned in 1859.

*Go East on Ninety-ninth Street and \*8 north on Broadway.*

12. **The Bloomingdale Dutch Reformed Church**, recently completed at One Hundred and Sixth Street and Broadway, on the site of Nicholas Jones' stone house near which began and ended

the Battle of Harlem Heights. The church, which celebrated its tenth anniversary in December, 1906, was incorporated as "The Church at Harsenville," and was founded in the Dutch mansion of Jacob Harsen, at Seventieth Street and Amsterdam Avenue, near which site it stood for a century. The open space in front of its present location was named "Bloomingdale Square" in 1907.

#### SIDE TRIP TO THE HAMILTON-BURR DUELING GROUND.

BY EDWARD HAGAMAN HALL.

*Take West Forty-second Street ferry to Weehawken.* Walk to the steam railroad track and then south along the shore (5 or 10 minutes) to a little point of land projecting into the river and marked by a scrubby tree. The duelling ground (now blasted away) was on a level spot near the shore about on the line of the railroad track at this point.

To see the **bust of Hamilton** take the trolley from the ferry to the top of the bluff, or mount the stairs and walk south and then east of the fence running along the cliff. See inclosure containing a pedestal and bust of Hamilton overlooking the scene of the encounter.

An **inscribed slab** of the original monument (placed here in 1806 by the St. Andrew's Society and broken because it seemed to encourage duelling) is now in the New York Historical Society building.

## MANHATTAN

### ROUTE 19.

#### SECTION VI.—MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS AND MANHATTANVILLE.

One Hundred and Tenth Street to One Hundred and Thirty-fifth Street.

(Figures refer to Plate XXIV; see also XXVI and XXX.)

*Take Broadway Subway to Cathedral Parkway; see to the east the partially completed **Cathedral of St. John the Divine**; walk west to Riverside Drive, then north to the*

1. **Carrigan House.** The original Nicholas de Peyster House stood at One Hundred and Fourteenth Street and Riverside Drive and was the terminus of the Bloomingdale Road as fixed by the Law of 1703. It burned down in 1835. The property was sold to Andrew Carrigan, President of the Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank, who built the present house.\*  
*Go east on One hundred and Fourteenth Street and north on Broadway, passing*

Buildings of the old *Bloomingdale Asylum*, one in the South Field of Columbia University and another, now the Columbia Faculty Building, northeast corner of One Hundred and Sixteenth Street and Broadway.

2. **Tablet**, erected by the Sons of the Revolution, on the Engineering Building (near One Hundred and Seventeenth Street), Columbia University, marking part of a site of the Battle of Harlem Heights, September 16, 1776. On the west side of Broadway, just south of Barnard College, was the wheat field where the main action was fought.

See also **memorial window** for the battle placed in St. Luke's Home for Aged Women at One Hundred and Fourteenth Street and Broadway by the New York State Society of the Daughters of the Revolution.

*Go east on One Hundred and Sixteenth Street.*

3. **Columbia Library**, the gift of Seth Low. See inscription on the pediment to commemorate the foundation of King's College, which stood at College Place and Murray Street. Within may be seen the iron crown formerly in King's College and a collection of early diplomas with signatures of former presidents.

On the opposite side of One Hundred and Sixteenth Street, in the quadrangle formed by Hamilton Hall and the Hartley Dormitory, see the **statue of Hamilton** by Ordway Partridge.

*Go north on Amsterdam Avenue.*

4. **Tablet** on southeast corner of Fayerweather Hall of Columbia University, on Amsterdam Avenue, facing One Hundred and Seventeenth Street, erected by the Empire State Society Daughters of 1812 on February 22, 1900, to commemorate New York City defences during the War of 1812. "Fort Haight" mentioned thereon should read "Fort Laight," being so named in honor of Edward W. Laight, Commander of the Regiment of City Infantry, 1814. General Garrit Hopper Striker, whose name is inscribed on this memorial, served as Captain of the 4th Company, 5th Regiment, 2nd Brigade, which regiment was the last employed in erecting the defences on Bloomingdale Heights. The original plan was to place the tablet on Block House No. 1 in Central Park, near which defence Captain Striker's command was stationed, but owing to the isolated position of the tower, and the likelihood of the memorial being hidden from view by foliage, the offer of the Trustees of Columbia to have it affixed to Fayerweather Hall was accepted.

Pass on the left **Teachers' College**.

5. **Block House No. 3**, War of 1812, in Morningside Park, at One Hundred and Twenty-third Street, marked in 1904 by a **tablet** erected by the Women's Auxiliary to the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society.

The little height just south formed part of Fort Horn, named for Major Joseph Horn, under whose immediate direction the works at *McGowen's Pass* were erected (Excursion IV, Section 1, 22, 25).

6. *Point of Rocks* was the high ground at One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Street and Convent Avenue, and the site of the most advanced southerly American military outworks on Washington Heights. Another redoubt stood on the hill now at One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Street, between Broadway and Riverside Drive. From the Point of Rocks Washington directed and watched the Battle of Harlem Heights. The rocks have been blasted away.

*Day's Tavern*, where Washington stayed on his advance to the evacuation of New York in 1783, was on One Hundred and Sixth Street, 200 feet west of Eighth Avenue.

*Go west on One Hundred and Twenty-second Street, passing, on the left, the new buildings of Union Theological Seminary.*

7. **Grant's Tomb**; designed by John H. Duncan; corner-stone laid by President Harrison, 1892, completed 1897, at a cost of \$600,000, subscribed chiefly by the people of New York City; within are the sarcophagi of General U. S. Grant and his wife. The interior decoration is by J. Massey Rhind. See the battle flags of the Civil War

and numerous memorials. It is controlled by the Grant Monument Association.

North of the tomb are trees planted by Li Hung Chang and a tablet to commemorate his esteem for General Grant. *Souvenir History* to be obtained from the custodian.\*<sup>10</sup>

*Go north along Riverside Drive.*

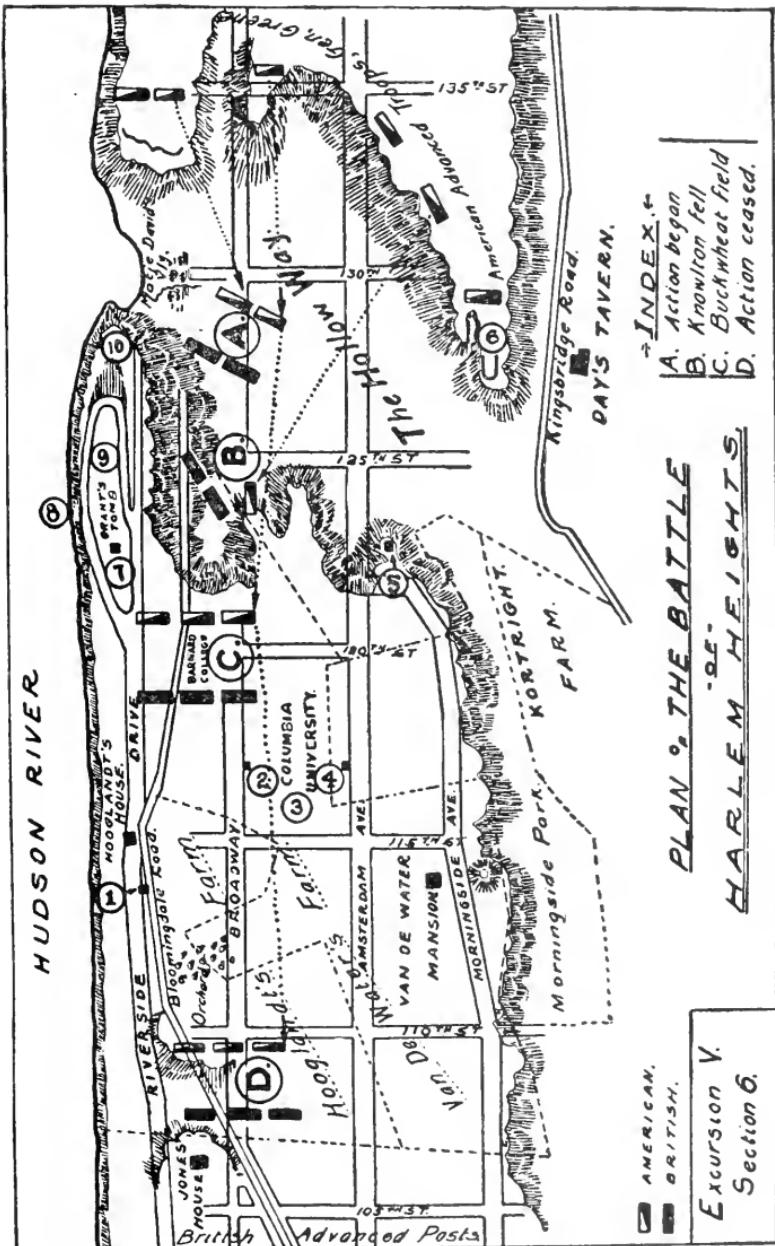
8. Tomb of "An Amiable Child" (St. Claire Pollock, baptized by Bishop Moore, November 11, 1792), buried here in 1797. It is said that the child lost its life by falling over a cliff near this spot. In 1796-8 George Pollock, probably the uncle of the child, bought this property, then known as "Strawberry Hill" or "Vandewater Heights," from Nicholas de Peyster, and when he sold part of it to Cornelia Verplanck, he reserved the burial plot which, on his return to Ireland in 1800, he deeded to her to preserve.

9. **The Claremont**, owned by the city and a public restaurant since 1872, was built shortly after the Revolution by Michael Hogan, at one time British Consul at Havana, and named after the royal residence at Surrey of Prince William, Duke of Clarence, afterward King William IV, with whom Hogan had served as fellow midshipman in the Royal Navy and who visited him at his town house in Greenwich Street in 1782. Viscount Courtenay, afterward Earl of Devon, occupied the house and from it in 1807 viewed the trial trip of Fulton's steamship, the "Clermont." In 1815 it became the abode of Joseph Bonaparte. The Post family purchased the property in 1821.

10. **View** of the Palisades and Fort Washington Point from the Viaduct which was built to extend Riverside Drive to Washington Heights. The valley between was known in Dutch days as "*The Clove of the Kill*," or "*Matje David's Fly*" (the Widow David's Meadow). During the Revolution it was called the "Hollow Way." The settlement in the valley between One Hundred and Twenty-fifth and One Hundred and Thirty-fifth Streets was known as *Manhattanville*. A rude ferry to Fort Lee was established before the Revolution.\*<sup>11</sup>

*Descend to Manhattan Street and go east to Subway.*

## HISTORICAL GUIDE



C. K.

PLATE XXIV. ROUTE 19.

Compiled from Plan in "Historic New York," Vol. II; Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons. By permission.

## MANHATTAN

### BATTLE OF HARLEM HEIGHTS.

BY HOPPER STRIKER MOTT.

This, the only contest of the Revolution within the limits of New York City that resulted in a victory for the Americans, had a greater influence on the result than is generally acknowledged. Washington's army had been disastrously worsted on Long Island and was in flight when this success clinched the dogged determination which made possible the brilliant exploits at Trenton and Princeton.

The Americans, on abandoning Long Island, had withdrawn up the Island of Manhattan, time for the retreat being gained through the instrumentality of Mary Lindley Murray (Section IV:1 and introductory note). During the delay, Putnam and his command, in their straggling retreat along the Bloomingdale Road, had passed in safety to within a mile of the Morris House where Washington had his headquarters. When the British realized that the patriots had joined the main army, they encamped that night along the New Cross Road (Apthorp Lane), Sir Henry Clinton taking possession of the Apthorp Mansion, and threw up fortifications just north, extending across the island from Hoorn's Hook to Striker's Bay. Earl Cornwallis was in command of the Reserve, while other generals led the English, Scotch and Hessians.

The first line of works thrown up by the Americans was located about One Hundred and Forty Seventh Street (Excursion IV, Section II:1) and the hill as far south as "The Hollow Way," the valley through which Manhattan Street now passes, was occupied by them. Generally, these were the positions of the two forces on September 16, 1776. On that morning, Colonel Thomas Knowlton, who had seen service at Lexington, Bunker Hill and Long Island, was directed by Washington to make a reconnaissance of the enemy's position. Moving southward with his Connecticut Rangers along the westerly side near the Hudson, they were screened from view by the woods covering Hooglandt's farm. It was not until they reached Nicholas Jones' farmhouse about sunrise that the British pickets, light infantrymen, were encountered. Evidently stationed on the Bloomingdale Road at about One Hundred and Fourth Street, their regiments were encamped a short distance to the south. During the brisk skirmish which now took place, the woods along the dividing line between the Jones and Hooglandt farms echoed the sharp firing from both sides. The forces were so disproportioned as to numbers, and the object of the movement had been so far attained that Knowlton ordered a retreat, which was effected without confusion. He had, however, ten killed in action. They fell back along the line of the Road; closely pursued. The enemy halted at the elevation known as "Claremont," from which point they could catch glimpses of General Greene's troops on the opposite slopes.

This was the third time within a month that the British had scattered or driven Washington's men with ease, and it only remained on this occasion for their bugler to sound the contemptuous notes of the hunt across the Hollow into the American lines. To quote one of the latter's officers: "The enemy appeared in open view and in the most insulting manner sounded their bugle horns as is usual after a fox-chase; I never felt such a sensation before—it seemed to crown our disgrace." Washington had gone down to the advanced position and heard the firing. He was urged to reinforce the Rangers, but was not immediately persuaded of the advisability of forcing the fighting. Eventually, he determined on a strategical plan, viz: to make a feint in front of the hill and induce the enemy to advance into the Hollow, and second, should this prove effective, to send a strong detachment circuitously around their right flank to the rear and hem them in. This plan succeeded in so far that the enemy, seeing the advance, promptly accepted battle, "ran down the hill and took possession of some fences and bushes," from which vantage a smart fire was begun, but at too great a distance to do much execution. The flanking party, composed of Knowlton's Rangers, now back at the lines, was reinforced with three companies of riflemen from the Third Virginia Regiment under Major Andrew Leitch. In some unlucky manner the attack was premature "as it was rather in flank than in rear." Both the brave leaders fell in this engagement, Knowlton living but an hour. Leitch survived until October 2nd, when he died at a little blacksmith's shop in the neighborhood of the present One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Street. Nothing daunted by the loss of their commanders, the Rangers and Riflemen pressed on. The British, who had been inveigled into

## HISTORICAL GUIDE

the Hollow Way, had in the meantime been put to flight by the use of artillery, and were pursued back towards their camp along the line of the Road to a buckwheat field on top of a high hill. Heretofore the maneuvering had taken place largely on the Hooglandt farm; the main action was then transferred to Van de Water's Heights.

The general limits of this "hot contest" were the high ground extending from Columbia University around westward and northerly to Grant's Tomb and Claremont. The fighting grew into a pitched battle, lasting from noon until about two o'clock. Nearly 1800 Americans were engaged, composed of commands representing New England, Maryland and Virginia, with volunteers from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The enemy finally retreated, followed in close pursuit, and the day was won. The route crossed an orchard just north of One Hundred and Eleventh Street and terminated in the vicinity of Jones' House, where Knowlton first found them in the early morning. It was considered prudent to withdraw, and late in the afternoon the troops returned to camp, rejoicing in a success they had not anticipated. It is estimated that about 30 men were killed and not over 100 wounded and missing. A total British loss of 171 was reported. This action put new courage into the patriots and exerted a wide influence over subsequent events.

The above account of the battle follows that of Henry P. Johnston, Professor of History in the College of the City of New York.

### LANDMARKS OF THE BATTLE-FIELD.

The *Apthorp Mansion*, where Washington waited until his little army of 3500 men, none of whom had breakfasted or slept, had passed in retreat from the oncoming enemy, following them to the Roger Morris House (Jumel Mansion) at One Hundred and Sixty-second Street, his headquarters until after the battle (Excursion IV, Section II). When Howe took possession of the Apthorp House it was whispered about that he was made welcome there, and when the war was over Apthorp was included in the list of persons suspected of being Tory sympathizers. Although indicted for treason, he was never tried for his alleged crime. Property which he owned in Massachusetts in connection with his brother was confiscated, but his New York realty was left untouched. (Section V:7).

*Van de Water Heights*, owned by Herman van de Water, stretched between One Hundred and Sixth and One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Streets, and included a part of present Morningside Park. These Heights were a portion of the De Key tract and were bounded south by the land of Theunis Eideyse van Huyse, and east by Harlem Commons. Van de Water and Adriaen Hooglandt purchased one-half of the tract from de Key in 1738.

The *Houses of Humphrey Jones*, his son *Nicholas Jones* and the *Striker Mansion* are described in Section V:8, 11, 12.

## MANHATTAN

### SIDE TRIP TO FORT LEE.

BY EDWARD HAGAMAN HALL.

*Take Fort Lee Ferry from West One Hundred and Thirtieth Street, and the trolley up the Palisades to Fort Lee Village.*

The site of the fort is on the bluff bounded by Cedar and English Streets and Parker Avenue. In the woods southwest of the pond (now dry) and of the church, may be seen some remains of the fireplaces or chimneys of the huts of the American troops, and west of these the zig-zag line of breastworks can be traced.

**Washington's Well** is northeast of the church (east of Parker Avenue), and still further east is a huge flat stone which was utilized for the bottom of a military bread oven. Traces of redoubts are visible on the crest of the Palisades east of the fort, and another redoubt some distance north was used to protect the sunken obstructions between Jeffreys Hook or Fort Washington Point and the Jersey Shore at this part on the river.

**Fort Lee Park**, consisting of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  acres, was given by Dr. James Douglas in 1910. This includes the chief Revolutionary sites in the neighborhood.

The **Fort Lee Monument** was dedicated September 26, 1908, on Parker's Pond Lot, by the Fort Lee Monument Association. It represents a Continental soldier and drummer boy climbing the Palisades.

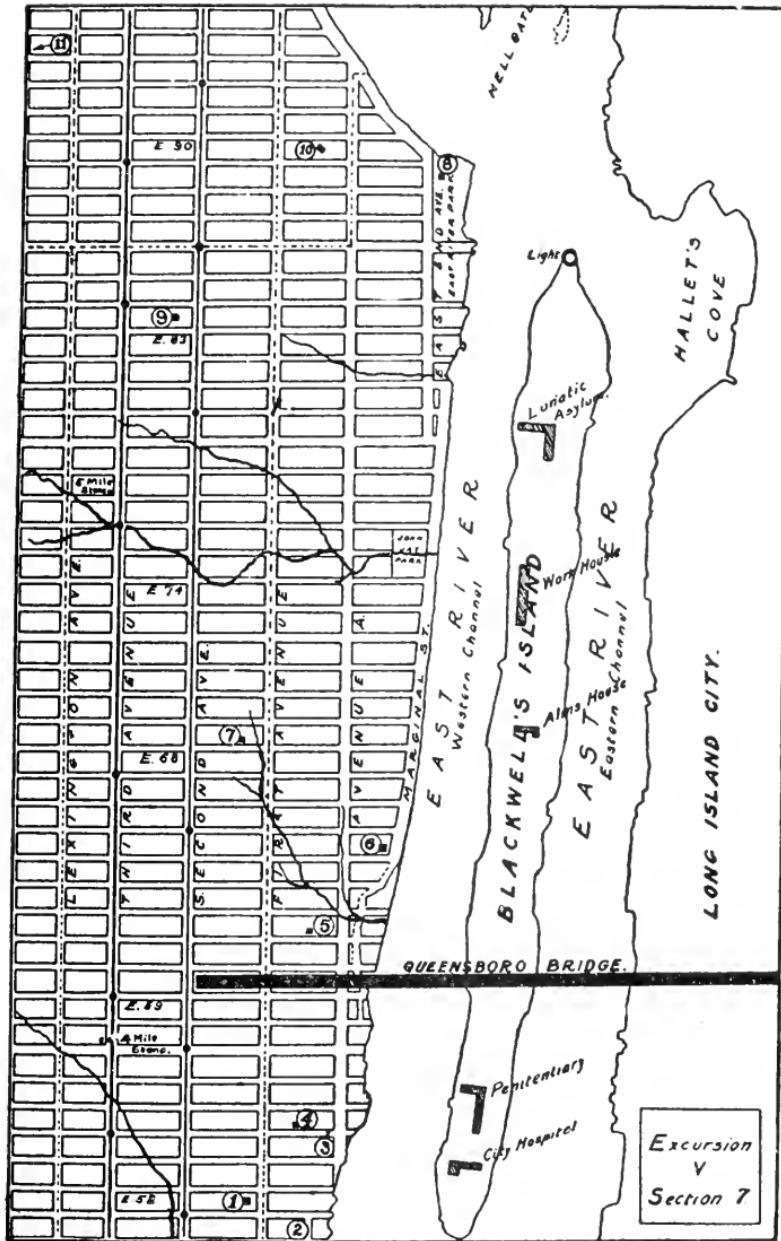


PLATE XXV. ROUTE 20.

C. K.

## MANHATTAN

### ROUTE 20.

#### SECTION VII.—KIP'S BAY TO HORN'S HOOK; THE EAST RIVER ISLANDS.

Corrected with the aid of Frank Warren Crane.

(Figures refer to Plate XXV).

Thirty-fourth Street to One Hundredth Street, east of Fifth Avenue.

*Kip's Bay* indented the eastern shore of Manhattan at Thirty-fourth Street where now are the ferry slips. Near by, on the east side of Second Avenue between Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth Streets stood until 1851 the *Farmhouse of Jacob Kip* where, in 1655, he brought his young wife, Marie de la Montagne. Here also the British landed on September 15, 1776, when they captured the Island of Manhattan.

*Turtle Bay* is a rocky cove at about Forty-fifth Street on the shore of which stood an old storehouse where the British kept military supplies. These were captured in 1773 by a band of Liberty Boys under John Lamb and Magnus Willett. Fortifications occupied this spot during the two wars with England.

*Artillery Park* was at Forty-fifth Street and First Avenue where Nathan Hale was executed.

*Cannon Point* was the name given to the projection into the East River of East 55th Street. From this point may be obtained a good view of the dangerous rocks and eddies of the East River and of the south end of Black-well's Island.

The river shore is as bold and rocky as it was in the early days, the swift current of the East River making it difficult to utilize this portion of Manhattan for docks.

The old *Post Road* after leaving Madison Square and crossing Third Avenue between Forty-second and Forty-third Streets, ran to Second Avenue, crossing it at Fifty-second Street (at Cato's Road House) and again at Sixty-third Street. It crossed Third Avenue at Sixty-fifth and Seventy-seventh Streets and Fourth Avenue at Eighty-fifth Street, and thence ran through Central Park to Harlem, its west branch joining the Bloomingdale Road.

The 4th MILESTONE is at Third Avenue and Fifty-seventh Street, and the 5th MILESTONE just one mile north, at Seventy-seventh Street (see Appendix: Milestones and Post Roads).

*Odellville* was the name applied to a hamlet of sixty years ago lying in the region of Third Avenue and Forty-ninth Street. From it a long lane led to the country house of Horace Greeley on the East River shore.

*Yorkville* was a village on the old Post Road between Eighty-third and Eighty-ninth Streets, Fourth and Second Avenues, by some so considered from Fifty-ninth to One Hundredth Street, the old Hell Gate ferry being then at the foot of Eighty-sixth Street. Seventy-fourth Street was the south boundary of the old "Town of Harlem."

*Take Second Avenue Elevated R. R. to Fiftieth Street and walk east to First Avenue.*

1. Site of the *Beekman House* on Beekman Hill, between Fifty-first and Fifty-second Streets west of First Avenue, where P. S. 135 now stands. The house was built in 1763 by Wm. Beekman and became the headquarters of Howe, Clinton and Carleton. In a greenhouse on the grounds Hale was tried as a spy and here André received his final instructions before going north to meet Arnold. The house was torn down in 1874, but one of its mantels and some of the Dutch Scripture titles may be seen in the New York Historical Society Building. Note the steep incline leading up to *Beekman Hill*.

2. *Beekman Place*, between Forty-ninth and Fifty-first Street, near the river, preserve the historic name. Note the view of the East River here.

*Go north to Fifty-third Street and east to the*

3. **Shot Tower**, built by Mr. Youle in 1821 (succeeding the old tower of Revolutionary days) and used during the Civil War. Nearby stood until recently the *De Voor Farmhouse*, built about 200 years ago, at the foot of East Fifty-third Street. The Spring Valley Farm was granted in 1677 by Governor Andros to David Duffore or De Voor. It was later called the Odell, Arden or Brevoort estate. It was a good example of substantial Dutch architecture and one of the oldest buildings in the city when destroyed. *De Voor's Mill Stream*, the Saw Kill or Saw Mill Creek, ran from the high ground of upper Central Park, being crossed at Seventy-seventh and Fifty-second Streets by two "Kissing Bridges."

4. The **Brevoort House** at 415 East Fifty-fourth Street is of Dutch architecture but much later than the De Voor House (after 1800). It was a country residence of the Brevoort family, though not the original homestead.

*Go north on Avenue A under the new Queensboro Bridge.*

5. **Smith's Folly**, a quaint old house near the terminal of the new Queensboro Bridge, 421 East Sixty-first Street. It was built for a stable in 1799 (see date on rear wall) by Colonel Wm. S. Smith, son-in-law of President John Adams. After Smith's failure it was used as a tavern until 1830, when it was bought by Jeremiah Towle, City Surveyor, and until 1906 was occupied by his daughters. Across the street are two old residences, one occupied by the Female Guardian Society Industrial School.

6. The **Schermerhorn Farmhouse**, built 1747, at the foot of East Sixty-fourth Street was a summer home of Governor George Clinton. It is now used in connection with the new buildings of the Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research, the erection of which obliterated the *Jones Chapel* and an old graveyard where were buried members of the Jones, Hardenbrook and Adams families.

*Jones' Wood*, north of Seventieth Street, was part of the 90-acre farm (from Sixty-sixth to Seventy-fifth Streets) originally owned by the Provoost family. Samuel Provoost became the first Bishop of New York and was President of Columbia College. His cousin, David Provoost, was a Revolutionary soldier who became a smuggler ("Ready Money Provoost") and hid his ill-gotten gains in the "Smugglers' Cave" on the shore of this farm, or in a cave at Hallett's Point, Astoria. The old Provoost family vault disappeared in 1858 from the foot of East Seventy-first Street. The Jones family acquired this property about 1803 and later Jones' Wood became a popular picnic resort. It was chosen as the site for a large city park for which was substituted the land covered by the present Central Park.

*Go west on Sixty-eighth Street,*

7. **Monument** in the German Reformed Church, Sixty-eighth Street, between First and Second Avenues, erected by the church in memory of Baron Steuben, an active member of the church of which J. J. Astor was elder, clerk and treasurer about 1800. The church was organized in 1758 and erected its first edifice on Nassau Street between Maiden Lane and John Street. In 1822 it moved to Forsyth Street, in 1861 to the corner of Norfolk and Stanton Streets, and in 1897 to the present location. On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the church (1908) the bell now used was presented to the congregation by the German Emperor.\*12

*Take First Avenue car to Eighty-sixth Street and go east to East River Park.*

8. The **Gracie House** in East River Park near Eighty-eighth Street stands on what was known in early days as *Horn's Hook* (its first owner, Siebert Classen, coming from Hoorn, Holland), and later as Rhinelander's or Observation Point, where batteries were placed during the two wars with England. The house was built by Archibald Gracie about 1813 and Washington Irving was a frequent visitor here and at the John Jacob Astor residence which stood just south near the present Eighty-sixth Street and Avenue A. Some of the trees in the park were sent from China and Japan.

Note **view** of the upper end of Blackwell's Island, Mill Rock, Hell Gate and Ward's Island (see article below on East River Islands).

9. Site of the *Yalless Hopper House*, on the west side of Second Avenue between Eighty-third and Eighty-fourth Streets, until 1855. It was a quaint stone structure built by Benjamin Waldron, whose daughter Elizabeth married Hopper in 1759 and passed into his possession on the death of his father-in-law in 1782. Its sides were indented with shots from British ships during the attack at Hoorn's Neck. An advertisement offering for sale the farm of Adolph Waldron in 1786 states that a ferry had long been established to Hallet's Cove on Long Island.

*Go west on Ninetieth Street, passing*

10. The **Prime House** (best seen from Ninetieth Street between Avenue A and First Avenue), now one of the buildings of St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum; some of its old fireplaces and mantels are preserved and from its upper balcony is obtained a fine view of Hell Gate. Nathaniel Prime, a merchant prince, had his town house at No. 1 Broadway. He built the uptown house in 1800.

*Go north on Park Avenue to*

11. The **Winfield Scott Mansion**, at Park Avenue and Ninety-third Street (northwest corner), erected in 1847 and now used as an academy by the Ursuline Sisters (about to be torn down, 1912).\*13

## HISTORICAL GUIDE

### THE EAST RIVER ISLANDS.

Near the turbulent waters of Hell Gate is a group of three islands covered with vast buildings of stone or brick where the poor, the sick and the insane of the city, as well as the offenders against law and order, are cared for by the Departments of Charities and Correction.

**Blackwell's Island**, called in Indian days *Minnahanonck* or Long Island, and, later, Manning's Island, was granted to Captain John Manning, Sheriff of New York County, in 1664. Because of his disgraceful surrender of the city to the Dutch in 1673, his sword was broken and he spent some years in retirement in his "castle" on the island. He left it to his step-daughter, who married Robert Blackwell. In 1828 the city bought it for \$50,000. Most of the buildings are of granite dressed on the island and built by convict labor. Around the island are heavy granite sea walls.

Passes may be obtained from the Departments of Charities and Correction.

**Hell Gate** is the channel between Astoria, Manhattan, Ward's and Blackwell's Islands, at the junction of the Harlem and East Rivers. Mr. Edward Hagaean Hall learned that "Hell Gate" is a name in use in Holland where it is spelled *Helle-gat* and is applied to a difficult water passage between the Volkerak and Holland Diep, on the much-traveled waterway between Antwerp and Rotterdam, the name being used in the same sense as the English translation "Hell Gate." The efforts to derive the name from an ancient root meaning "beautiful" or "clear" have no foundation in fact.

Owing to hidden rocks and conflicting tides, the strait is yet dangerous for navigation, although many rocks have been removed by the government. The great work of exploding these reefs was begun in 1869-76 and completed in 1885. Among its features are *Pot Rock*, the *Devil's Frying Pan*, *Flood Rock*, *Hog's Back*, *Nigger Head* and *Gridiron*. A description of the strait is given in the *Labadist Journal*. **Mill Rock**, or Leland's Island, opposite Ninety-third Street, used to be known as "Sandy Gibson's," a favorite stopping place for fishermen. Here, in 1812, a blockhouse was built for the defence of the city.

**Ward's Island** (also called Great Barent, Barn or Buchanan's Island) was bought from the Indians by Van Twiller and used by him as a pasture. In 1776 it was occupied by the British who established a camp here. After the Revolution two brothers, Jasper and Bartholomew Ward, bought it and divided it into farms. In 1812 a cotton mill was built and a bridge which connected the island with One Hundred and Fourteenth Street. In 1840 it became the Potter's Field, 100,000 bodies being brought here from Bryant Park (see Section IV).

4. **Little Hell Gate** is the strait which divides Ward's Island on the north from

**Randall's Island** (Belle Isle, Little Barent or Montresor's Island), which has had many owners since the English ceded it to Thos. Delavall, an early collector of customs. Among the owners was Captain James Montresor, who lived here during the Revolution. Here, in 1776, 250 Americans were defeated in an attempt to capture a British force. Jonathan Randall bought the island in 1784 and in 1835 sold it to the city for \$50,000. A pass to visit the House of Refuge may be secured from the Department of Charities.

*North and South Brother's, Riker's, City, Hart's, Hunter's and Twin Islands* are described in Excursion IX.

## HISTORICAL GUIDE

### ADDENDA—1912

\*<sup>1</sup> (p. 107). The **Cruger Mansion**, a reproduction of *Boscobel House*, seat of the Douglas family in Scotland, was the home of William Douglas and his sister, Harriet Douglas Cruger. Kossuth was a guest, and his two nieces lived here many years.

\*<sup>2</sup>(p. 109). The **Irving House** was built by Mr. Martin, who in the 50's sold it to Mr. Phelps. The family say Washington Irving never lived here.

**Tablets and medallion heads:** (a) William Lloyd Garrison, south-east corner Seventeenth Street and Fourth Avenue, to commemorate his death here, May 24, 1879; (b) Henry George (Se Richard F. George), on Union Square Hotel, Fifteenth Street and Fourth Avenue, erected 1909 to commemorate his death here, October 29, 1897.

\*<sup>3</sup> (p. 110). **Herman Melville**, the writer, lived at 104 East Twenty-sixth Street.

\*<sup>4</sup> (p. 112). The **Methodist Historical Society** has a collection of relics in the Methodist Book Concern, 150 Fifth Avenue, corner Twentieth Street; the **Huguenot Society**, 105 East Twenty-second Street, has a collection of books relating to the settlement of America by the French.

\*<sup>5</sup> (p. 114). *Near Greeley Square:* **Statues** of (a) Horace Greeley, Broadway and Thirty-third Street, by Alexander Doyle, erected by the Typographical Union and a Grand Army Post; (b) William E. Dodge, by J. Q. A. Ward, erected by New York merchants.

In the **Hotel Imperial**, Broadway and Thirtieth Street, is the painting, "Bowling in Bowling Green."

The **Arsenal**, Thirty-fifth Street and Seventh Avenue, contains tablets and war relics from the old Elm Street Armory.

\*<sup>6</sup> (p. 117). Union troops were encamped in Reservoir Square. On July 4, 1863, the Draught Riots began with an attack on the Colored Orphan Asylum near by, at Forty-third Street and Fifth Avenue. The "Cröton Cottage" was burned by the mob.

**Statue** of William Cullen Bryant, by Herbert Adams, on the east side of the Park, near the Library, erected by the Century Association in 1911.

## MANHATTAN

West of the Bryant Memorial is a **Memorial Fountain** to Josephine Shaw Lowell, social worker and philanthropist, erected May 21, 1912. See tablet in front, sunk in the ground.

In the **Republican Club**, on the site of St. Ignatius' Church, at 54 West Fortieth Street, is a large collection of rare prints and maps of old New York.

\*7 (p. 121). The name "Times Square" was given shortly after the erection of the present Times Building.

In the **New Amsterdam Theater**, 214 West Forty-second Street, is the painting, "Reading the Declaration of Independence to the Army on the Common, July 9, 1776" (see p. 54).

\*8 (p. 123). **Statue** of General Franz Siegel, by Bitter, Riverside Drive and 100th Street, erected by public subscription.

\*9 (p. 125). **Fulton Water Gate** and **Monument**, to the memory of Robert Fulton, designed to stand on Riverside Drive, between 114th and 116th streets, to be erected through public subscription obtained by the Robert Fulton Monument Association. When completed the remains of Fulton are to be transferred from Trinity Churchyard to this monument.

\*10 (p. 127). **Japanese Cherry Trees** and **tablet** in honor of Grant and the friendship of Japan for the American people, presented by the Japanese Government in 1912. The tablet is just northeast of the tomb on a granite block.

\*11 (p. 127). **Tablet** at the south end of the Viaduct, near 128th Street, to commemorate the Hollow Way, erected 1910 by the Knickerbocker Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

\*12 (p. 135). The block bounded by Fifth and Madison avenues, Seventieth and Seventy-first streets, was part of the great Lenox Farm left to James Lenox by his father, Robert Lenox. In 1870 Mr. Lenox gave this block to a Board of Trustees for a public library, and here Lenox Library stood until after the opening of the New York Public Library, the proceeds of the sale of this property being used to complete the new library.

The American Jewish Historical Society, No. 736 Lexington Avenue, contains books relating to the history of Jews on the American Continent.

\*13 (p. 135). **Milestones** are found along Third Avenue as follows: No. 2, between Sixteenth and Seventeenth streets (see Exc. III, p. 91); No. 4, at Fifty-seventh Street; No. 5, at Seventy-seventh Street; No. 7, at 117th Street (see Appendix A, p. 371). A Revolutionary **cannon** stands at the southeast corner of Third Avenue and Fifty-first Street.





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